

Lesson 9: **Tulou** – A formal way of saying excuse me as you walk past people

19/09/2012 Wednesday



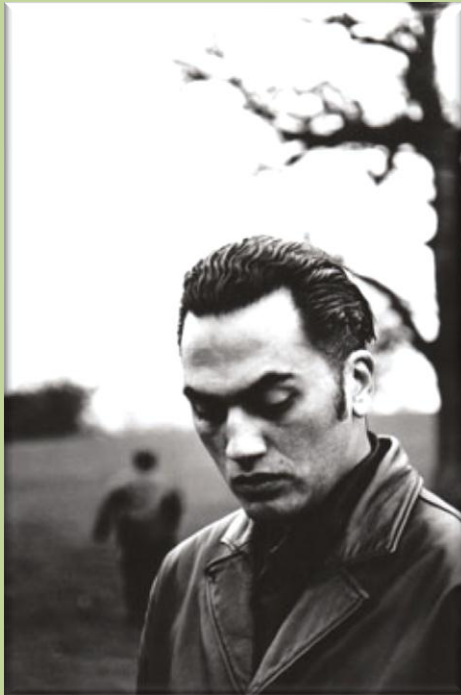
- ❖ **Tangi**: **Fakaalofa lahi atu ki a mutolu**
- ❖ Today we are going to launch into our 9th Vagahau Niue language lesson for Term 3, but before we do, let's quickly recap on how to say – Listen to me, or pay attention!
 - ❖ **Fanongo mai** – **Say after me**
 - ❖ **Fanongo mai**
- ❖ **Sharleen**: Which brings us to our new word for the day, which is – Tulou, the Niuean word for 'excuse me'. We should all be semi-familiar with this word by now, as it is exactly the same as in **Lea Faka-Tonga** and **Gagana Samoa**!
 - ❖ **Tulou** – **Say after me**
 - ❖ **Tulou**
- ❖ **Rina**: Having already shared with you a little about Niue's mythology, history, economy and Government; we thought that we would tell you a story about one of Niue's famous sons.

- ❖ **Paul Fuemana** was the lead singer of **OMC**, the band that recorded ‘**How Bizarre**,’ the most successful song in New Zealand music history. In one of his last ever interviews Paul described how he came up with the name OMC, the story behind ‘How Bizarre’ and some of the struggles he encountered once he became successful.
- ❖ Paul grew up surrounded by music. His father **Takiula** loved to play the ukulele and guitar and taught his children how to play. Music was such an important part of their lives that Paul and his siblings started their own family band: **House Party!**
- ❖ One day in **1993** Paul and older brother Phillip sat at the kitchen table wondering what to call Paul’s new group. They came up with the name “**Otara Millionaires Club because there were no millionaires in Otara!**” Paul said ‘**It was like saying, I got dirty shoes but I can still feel like a million bucks!**’



- ❖ **Gaylene:** Paul and producer Alan Jansson wanted a new sound to go with the new name. They decided to mix Paul’s **Niuean background with hip hop** and came up with a song they called ‘How Bizarre.’ It became New Zealand’s most successful single ever!
 - ❖ ‘How Bizarre’ spent 36 weeks in the US top 100, and sold over a million copies worldwide. One person wrote, “**Paul Fuemana had achieved his dream of becoming a millionaire from Otara.**”
 - ❖ But there were a lot of challenges ahead. Paul made millions of dollars from ‘How Bizarre’ but also lost a lot of money. He is quoted saying ‘**I didn’t really understand the tax system and I got caught out. I had to sell a lot of the things I bought. I learned good lessons from that – to enjoy life but don’t let it overtake you.**’

- ❖ **Whāea Jacque:** Relevant to our language lesson today - Before his death Paul said he wished more Niueans would learn their language.
 - ❖ **'There was a stage in my life when I could only speak Niuean. My grandmother taught me. Our language is ancient and we need to be proud of it. Being Niuean means a lot to me, but I'm not going to claim land, you have to have it inside you.'**
 - ❖ Paul Fuemana is a tremendous example for today's young people. He was the first musician to come out of South Auckland and become a worldwide star. Auckland Mayor Len Brown described Paul's death as **'the passing of a young legend. He totally broke the glass ceiling for all these Pacific musicians.'**



- ❖ **Tangi:** Paul believed young people could achieve the same things he did, as long as they have determination.
 - ❖ **'Reach for the sky and don't stop. Even if you fall down and fail, just keep going until you get there. My Nanna always said to me: "la leveki e tino haau, ko e taha ni e tino haau" – you've only got one soul, look after it.'**